

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 18, 2003**

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Rep. Harrell, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. G. Martin, Mr. Stowe, Superintendent Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, and Mr. Wilson

**I. Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**II. Special Agenda Item:** Mr. Staton asked that the agenda be amended for a report from the Academic Standards and Assessment Subcommittee. Mr. Wilson outlined conversations between representatives of the State Department of Education and the EOC. He presented the statement below which was adopted by the membership:

The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) and the State Department of Education are committed to the principles of accountability outlined in the Education Accountability Act (EAA) of 1998. We believe that any changes to the principles and programs of South Carolina's education accountability system should be made after full deliberation and debate by the members of the General Assembly.

We are sensitive to the demands that the accountability system makes upon our educators, students and communities and encourage solutions to administrative challenges so that we maintain South Carolina's focus on the highest levels of student and school achievement.

We will work together to develop alternative testing schedules that recognize the importance of the four academic content areas (English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies), prepare our students and schools for the rigor of *No Child Left Behind* requirements and maintain South Carolina's education improvement efforts.

**III. Special Report:** Dr. Paul Krohne outlined efforts from the SC School Boards Association, the SC Association of School Superintendents and a working group of school business officers to develop a model of school funding that would be an alternative to the present system and to the system outlined in H4410 and H4411. Dr. Chester Floyd, president of the SC Association of School Superintendents addressed the EOC on the importance of the model. Mr. Bob Davis outlined the model and provided handouts. Members questioned Mr. Davis, Dr. Floyd and Dr. Krohne about aspects of the plan, utilization of the new funds, and balance among revenue sources.

**IV. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Academic Standards and Assessments: (reported as item II in the minutes)
- B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed two evaluations conducted by EOC staff: the second annual evaluation of the Teacher Loan Program and the evaluation of the Applied Curriculum Program. Recommendations within each report were adopted. There was discussion about the relationship of the applied curriculum program to the *High Schools That Work* projects and efforts to increase the graduation rate.
- C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. She reviewed the report from focus groups on the use of the parent survey and outlined

actions the Subcommittee is pursuing to reformat the results in a more user-friendly fashion and to develop tools that aided principals and school communities in the use of the data.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Staton indicated that six county meetings had been conducted and drew members' attention to the schedule enclosed in the meeting materials.

E. Administration: Mr. Staton had no report.

V. Report from a Key Constituency: Michele Brinn and Allison Cunningham, representing the Carolina First Center at the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, presented information on the Baldrige project in schools. They provided explanatory materials on the process generally and examples of how the Baldrige principles are used in schools. Members asked a number of questions and completed Ms. Brinn and Ms. Cunningham on the project.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.